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Eminent Veterinary Clinicians of the Past

Addresses on the occasion of the Central Veterinary Society's R.C.V.S. Centenary Commemoration Meeting*

I.—By DR. J. T. EDWARDS

(*Continued from page 102*)

(4) *Causes of the Clinical Veterinary Art being held in Low Esteem in the West till recent times.*—As Leclainche has truly said, veterinary history reads strange to anyone not well versed in it. To appreciate it, one needs in particular some understanding of mythology. The Byzantine hippiatrists were probably largely indifferent at the time they flourished, namely, in the third to the fifth centuries A.D., to the Platonic doctrines. The fall of Rome in A.D. 416, and the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, brought about in its train the annihilation for many centuries of the Greek spirit of investigation in Western Europe. The Christian Church, however, spread its influence through the framework of the Empire and became settled in its doctrine by the teachings of St. Augustine (A.D. 354-430), a disciple of the Neo-Platonic school who compounded the teachings of that school with those of Christianity; its precepts thus became more and more introspective, ritualistic and superstitious. To compete against the Oriental religions, contempt for animal life was fostered, and the "soul," possessed by man alone, was denied to the "beast," which was therefore allowed to suffer without mercy or pity.

In *India* clinical animal medicine seems to have flourished to a high state of perfection from the time of the Védas, and in the extant ancient Sanskrit writings there are remarkable accounts of the diseases of elephants, especially, as well as of cattle, camels and other animals. With the rise of Buddhism in the 4th century B.C. animal life became venerated, animal hospitals were established throughout the country, and during the reign of the great Buddhist emperor Asoka (270-233 B.C.) India became what has been called the "apotheosis" of the animal world. With the decline of Buddhism about the 4th century A.D. and its final ousting by Hinduism in the 12th century, veterinary medicine declined to the contemptibly low level it reached until it was redeemed by the British occupation. A rather serious handicap in the Buddhist outlook, however, was that surgical treatment, which had developed remarkably under its Hindu predecessors, judging from the instruments used, was forbidden.

Likewise, in *China*, during the Chow Dynasty (1121-249 B.C.) the Temples of Medicine were elaborately organised, each with an administrative medical superintendent's office, controlling four departments, namely, those of (1) Dietetics, (2) Medicine, (3) Surgery, and (4) Veterinary Medicine. It is curious to note that the superintendent's office contained two high-grade doctors and four lower-grade doctors, while the Department of Dietetics contained two middle-grade doctors, that of Medicine eight middle-grade doctors, that of Surgery eight lower-grade doctors, and that of Veterinary Medicine four lower-grade doctors. This is interesting because it shows the relative importance given to the different branches of medicine in that remote civilisation, and the differences in prestige accorded to the practitioners in the various branches. Dietetics comes first in importance, while surgery and veterinary medicine are dealt with by practitioners of lower rank than those of human medicine.

This tendency, it may be remarked parenthetically, to *rank the surgeons lower than the physicians and for the surgeons to exhibit an affinity towards veterinary practitioners*, is a phenomenon that is well marked throughout history until very recent times. John Hunter, to whom veterinary medicine in England is indebted in the way we have already indicated, on being asked for advice by Moorcroft on whether to take up human or veterinary medicine, replied that if he were younger he would have gone himself in for veterinary work. We have no knowledge regarding the methods of practice adopted in veterinary medicine during its period of high development in China, but the methods generally employed in medicine stressed mainly the importance of hygiene, dietetics and psychotherapy.

What was the cause of the decline of clinical veterinary medicine in these ancient civilisations? One phenomenon seems to stand out fairly clearly. China, in the period following the rise of veterinary medicine, that is, during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. to A.D. 220) had a number of highly gifted physicians, in some ways ranking with Hippocrates in merit. She had also had, however, during the latter part of the preceding period towering philosophers, like Confucius and Mencius, who were more bent on seeking as a means to human happiness the ordaining of wise living than the pursuing of knowledge. Great as was therefore the progress of the human mind during these periods, an abstract philosophy rather than concrete science triumphed and the road to progress was barred.

We have a similar phenomenon occurring with Hinduism and Buddhism in India as well as in Greece, as has been already said, during the great period of Greek culture in which lived the philosophers Socrates and Plato, contemporaneously with Hippocrates.

Egyptologists say, too, that time after time in the history of ancient Egypt there were evidences that the population felt it had reached the acme of social stability and progress was eschewed. More so than in the case of the other civilisations the precise dates are known: archaeological evidence points to the practice of the veterinary art in the third millennium B.C., while the Kahun papyrus, discovered by Flinders Petrie in 1895, gives the first written descriptions of animal diseases dating back to between 2500 and 2300 B.C.

In the successive Babylonian civilisations there is evidence that the veterinary art was practised, though we do not know by what methods; the legal code of the great semitic king, Hammurabi (2123-2081 B.C.) contains some items governing veterinary jurisprudence that in some respects have not been surpassed to this day.

Although the main thesis propounded by Leclainche (1936) in his book therefore can be corroborated, namely, that the dominance of theological medicine throughout the thousand years or more that followed the fall of Rome brought in its train disaster to the animal world and the degradation of clinical veterinary medicine to the lowest depths in most European countries until just before the creation of the veterinary schools in the latter half of the 18th century, yet we have no grounds for thinking that things would have been otherwise if any religion had prevailed other than that of the Christian Church, such as Buddhism, as he suggests.

The consequence of arresting the pursuit of knowledge by giving preference to a philosophy aiming at the establishment of a higher code of ethics appears to be to cause a return to a more primitive social level, with the dominance of priestcraft: this accentuates, in sequence, superstition, tyranny, and finally indifference; in such conditions clinical veterinary medicine perishes. Before the cyclical decay sets in, men like "Salihotra," Aristotle, Apsyrtus, and (as we shall see later in dealing with Arab veterinary medicine) Salamiellas, and Darwin in turn appear, representing the culmination of a cyclical period in human evolution favourable to a genuinely objective perception of the subject of this essay. The Physicians of the Dark Ages, being wedded to a theocracy, shunned the animal world because it was necessary to preserve the authority of the Church and thereby above all things to exalt the self-esteem of a mentally impoverished mankind overcome with lassitude.*

There is readily seen close at hand at the present day evidence of the persistence of the Oriental attitude towards animal medicine. It was one of the duties of the priest among the Hebrews to inspect animals prior to sacrifice, divining, or slaughter for food, for wholesomeness. His duties are recorded in the Talmud. Unlike the Christian Church, therefore, Judah did not ordain its priests to differentiate between man and beast, and to consider themselves above ministering to the latter. It is the Rabbi who still carries out an *ante-mortem* inspection, and bleeds animals destined for the food of the Jewish community.

* The luncheon given by the Central Veterinary Society in honour of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, on Thursday, March 30th, 1944, was followed by a general meeting, held with the same motive, at the Kingsway Hall, W.C.2, when the addresses now reproduced weere delivered. Those attending included the President of the Royal College, Mr. Wm. Nairn, and a number of Past-Presidents and present members of Council of the Governing Body.

* In tracing to their roots the disturbing phenomena which have hampered the development of an Art that in itself is both innocent and useful, one cannot escape the duty of examining closely the various sources that may throw light. To an extent that is becoming rapidly increasingly striking this is forthcoming from the researches of archaeologists, anthropologists and psychologists, and what emanates needs to be judicially woven into the historical record. It is gratifying to find that after a short period when the foundations for genuine religious belief were rudely shaken, such enquiries are at last happily bringing us round to an appreciation of such belief, not as an illusion, but as a safe anchorage, at its highest level, to decent and orderly living. This much is ventured by way of explanation, for one may rest confident that the Art can but stand to gain enormously in the end from the continued progress of scientific enquiry into these fresh fields.

It would be wrong, however, to attribute economic or hygienic origins to certain practices in these Oriental religions, such as the Moslem aversion to dogs and swine, and the Hindu veneration of the cow. These are more likely to have their origins in certain *totems*, not unlike but more pronounced than that of our own community towards mice and rats—animals which ecologically, like numbers of the canidae, have been disposed to be friendly towards men. Recently this totem has been overcome as has been shown by these small rodents becoming, in the hands of the research worker, about the most domesticated of animals, having now been used in millions for his nutrition and other experiments.

In earlier days hawks and falcons were domesticated for purposes of hunting and some of the best treatises in the clinical veterinary art of earlier days referred to the diseases of these creatures.

(5) *The Exalted Status of the Clinical Veterinary Art in Islam.*—After the fall of the Roman Empire, veterinary medicine flourished exceedingly within the *Arab territories*. A common characteristic of the adherents of Islam was their passionate love of their horses, which they valued above their women. Fired by their religion, these peoples extended their sway from Persia westwards throughout the countries surrounding the Mediterranean basin, conquering the whole of Spain, Sardinia, Sicily and Southern Italy, and their westward progress was only brought to a halt by Charles Martel before the gates of Tours in A.D. 732. Of low intellectual calibre, it has been said, they were yet good scientists, and readily absorbed the learning of the vanquished peoples. Hence human medicine was taught at great centres of learning which were established from Baghdad in Persia to Salamanca in Spain, and veterinary medicine was held in high honour and taught side by side with human medicine in their schools. The teaching was, however, mainly borrowed from Greek and, in the case of veterinary medicine, Byzantine sources. At the same time as great figures arose in human medicine, like Rhazes and Avicenna, distinguished writers like Abu Bekr and Abu Zachariah dealt with the veterinary art. It was from Arab sources that the treasures of Greek learning filtered back to Western Europe during the Middle Ages, the most famous compilations being the book of Jordanius Ruffus, in the 13th century—the starting point for the regeneration of the veterinary art in Western Europe—and that of Rusius in the 14th century, which was afterwards plagiarised and corrupted by unscrupulous writers, like Mascall and Markham, right down to the 18th century.

With the recession of the Arab Empire, from the 13th century and its final expulsion from Spain towards the end of the 15th century, however, the veterinary art was not allowed to suffer, and the Catholic monarchs gave their protection to its practitioners, the *albeitares*. In the 13th century there was published in Spanish, by a member of that body named Salamiellas, a remarkable book recently discovered by the German veterinary historian, W. Rieck. The methods of treatment employed and the surgical instruments have a strong modern resemblance. In 1563, namely, about the time of Spain's greatness, we have an account of a journey by a German horse-dealer, Marx Fugger, into Spain on a mission to buy horses, and he was surprised to find that horses were treated there, not as in his own country by ordinary shoeing smiths, but by an organised disciplined body of practitioners, who moreover, on oath as professional men, undertook to examine horses for prospective buyers for soundness for purposes of warranty. A similar localised movement appears to have taken place in London during this period when there was formed a guild of Marshals (mentioned first in the Chronicle of Wace in 1830), and in Germany we have the Marställe. Their control, as in Spain, by a governing body—under Royal protection—the *Protoalbeitarato*, does not seem to have been so rigid. After the foundation of the first veterinary school in Spain in 1793, it was intended to substitute regularly instructed veterinarians for these *albeitares* who had been trained mainly by apprenticeship. However, the Spanish *Cortes* (Parliament) assembled in 1813 in Cadiz decreed that all State-protected Corporations should be abolished, and that the centuries-old autonomy of the veterinary profession, as in the cases, too, of the other professions, should come to an end. The effect was disastrous. "The profession encumbered by practitioners trained in every sort of manner and innumerable empirics dragged out (vegetated) painfully, in spite of the real merits of a few." Not until a National Congress was held in 1883, and again in 1904 and 1907, was something done to redeem the ground lost, and bring the graduates of the then four veterinary schools within some sort of organisation for their proper education and protection. This seems to have been accomplished in some measure with the formation of a professional association in 1923.

(6) *The Clinical Veterinary Art at the foundation of the Veterinary Schools.*—According to the opinion expressed by the late Sir John M'Fadyean* in a profound historical address given by him in 1923 on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, the "sudden awakening to the necessity for a scientific study of the diseases of the domesticated animals had two causes, *viz.*: (1) the great losses incurred among Army horses during the wars of the preceding period, and (2) the ravages caused throughout Europe by the animal plagues, and especially cattle plague, which often followed in the wake of armies. Leclainche concurs in his view and so, very largely, does Smith. I feel I cannot wholly subscribe to that view. In so far as the movement gained ground through the demands of Sovereigns or States to obtain a cadre of workers specially trained to control such diseases it proved in the event, at any rate so far as Great Britain was concerned, somewhat untimely and to miss its objectives. It is true that Frederick the Great on his return after the close of the Seven Years War, after witnessing the ravages caused by cattle plague, particularly in Silesia, requested the Faculty of Medicine in Berlin in 1767 to draw up plans for the creation of a veterinary school. This request was reluctantly complied with, but the plans were not carried into effect until after his death (1768). A great outbreak of cattle plague had occurred in Britain in 1745, but it did not move the authorities to take active steps to promote veterinary education. It is also true that Napoleon after his return from his disastrous Moscow campaign in 1813, doubtless after witnessing the decimation of his cavalry, had plans drawn up for a State veterinary service, but the veterinary schools already long established, namely, the first at Lyons in 1761 and the second at Alfort three years later, do not seem to have been competent to carry it into effect. Indeed, in a country like France, where financial State support was abundantly lavished, a modern worker might feel entitled to say that it was not until a professor of the calibre of Edmond Nocard (1850-1903), a disciple of Pasteur, arose at Alfort that the veterinary schools were able to deal really scientifically with contagious disease, and through him, harmonise science with practice. However, there had been, long before the creation of the schools, abundant knowledge really available since the precepts of the Italian scholar Lancisi were published, and applied with prompt effect by Thomas Bates, Surgeon to H.M. Household, to eradicate cattle plague when it had broken out earlier in England, in 1714. Those wise precepts, which embody all the essentials of the present-day stamping-out method of control, seem to have been rapidly forgotten or overlooked, until when each succeeding visitation had for some time wrought its havoc, they were recalled and re-applied. Dossie's memoir, published in 1771, gives injunctions on the principles of control which to this day have hardly been surpassed.*

On the other hand, the attempts made—in England, at any rate, before 1791, when the London College was initiated—such as those by Edward Snape and James Clark, namely, by conspicuous members of the old farrier class, to open schools met with no success. In Hanover, however, a distinguished member of that class, J. A. Kersting, succeeded in 1778 in creating a school, which has had probably a less chequered history than any of the greater veterinary schools in Europe; Götze of that school would probably be accounted one of the foremost veterinary clinicians of the present day. It is hard to believe that anything whatever would have stood in the way of William Dick, who was certainly of this class, creating his school in Edinburgh in 1824: to the end of his days he had no knowledge of contagious disease, refusing to believe in contagion, and when consulted over cattle plague when it did break out in 1865 merely advised treatment with some homely remedies. A man of this type, however, had a shrewd knowledge of men, and in his disciple, John Barlow (1815-1856) would have probably found, had this disciple survived, a successor to assimilate into his teachings, without mutilating them, the methods accruing from scientific progress.

Again, to say as Sir John M'Fadyean did earlier in the address already quoted, that before the date of the opening of the veterinary schools, "knowledge regarding animal diseases was scarcely more than a meagre collection of observations and opinions, incapable of being arranged in any natural order or sequence," is not wholly fair or true. Great credit has been given to Bourgelat, as the creator of the veterinary schools, by his founding of the Lyons and Alfort schools in 1761 and 1765. He has not, however, escaped severe historical criticism in his own country; at the beginning the schools were staffed, as Leclainche admits, by either

* *J. Comp. Path. & Ther.* (1923.) **36**. 248.

* We have already referred to Moorcroft (1767-1825), the first qualified British veterinarian and perhaps the one most gifted with a powerful and at the same time practical intellect. Commenting upon the course of his career subsequent to his outstanding success as a London horse practitioner, after his departure for India in 1808, Smith says, "to a man of his ability the suppression of disease was a relatively simple matter," and this having been achieved he bent his talents to what was to him of foremost veterinary importance, namely, exploration, along what we now recognise as sound lines, to ascertain possible sources of improving the Indian breeds of horses. What had been hoped in founding the veterinary schools, to turn out from them men who combined sufficient ability to suppress disease, for the general public benefit, with skill in the Clinical Art, to satisfy the needs of private practice, would have been possible only, we see now more clearly, if men of this calibre had been entrusted with breaking the ground. We are thus left to contemplate the lasting tragedy resulting from the faulty selection of teachers at certain critical stages in our history.

aftsmen, incapable of assimilating any scientific knowledge, or teachers of recondite sciences, wholly estranged from veterinary perience. How differently they might have been launched, as the nover school was afterwards launched, if the man who was available d had been imbued with the long traditions of veterinary craftsman- p had been entrusted with the task may be gleaned from the llowing short biography written by the German veterinary historian, . Rieck.

PHILLIPPE ETIENNE LAFOSSE (1738-1820)

". . . the most unselfish and the most genial veterinary researcher and ractitioner of the 18th century. The young Lafosse, whose grand- ther and father were distinguished veterinary craftsmen (and who had o written very learned veterinary works)* had a remarkably extensive eruditi- n. He taught human and veterinary medicine, spent two years as veterinarian the Carabineer Corps (1759) and in the Royal Legion (1760) in the Seven Years ar, and conducted towards the end of the campaign in the field a veterinary spital in Wesel for three months, where 30 smiths were trained as his assistants. hilst Lafosse was carrying out new researches indefatigably, his diligence and riginal methods being rewarded with outstanding results, Claude Bourgelat (1712- 779), an influential lawyer and horse lover, opened in Lyons, in 1762, the first tate controlled) veterinary school in the world. Not satisfied with that, Bourgelat pened a second veterinary school at Alfort, near Paris, in 1766, which he himself rected. This act filled Lafosse till the end of his days with bitterness and fanatical tred towards Bourgelat and both veterinary schools, having regard to his (Lafosse's) tablished reputation as a man with outstanding achievements to his credit and roved teaching capacity. All his works from 1766 onwards were dictated by his desire overcome his adversary, and place him in the background. After several publica- ns (Guide du maréchal, Paris, 1766) he lectured in his own amphitheatre built at s own expense on the anatomy and diseases of the horse. In the next two years e published his "Cours d'hippiatrique ou Traité complet de la médecine des hevaux" (Paris, 1772). The two folio volumes comprising practical instruction ith 65 large copper plates were the result of 20 years' research and cost the nusually large price to produce of £70,000, which Lafosse paid out of his own ocket. To the idealism of this veterinarian who was far ahead of his time we have o thank for the pictorial display of instruments of the 18th century."

That the spirit of the Byzantine hippiatrists was not dead but merely awaited rekindling on favourable soil may be gathered from the above extract. Two more short biographies are added from the pens of the same historian (Rieck) and F. Smith, referring to the auspicious contribution of some Englishmen of the pre-school period to practical veterinary work :—

MICHAEL HARWARD

"In the same year as in Berlin the large horse practitioners—such as Martin Rhme (1550-1636)—turned to cattle, there appeared in England the great pioneer f cattle pathology (*Bujatrik*), Martin Harward. Practising first in Cheshire (1652) nd later in Ireland as veterinary surgeon he wrote after 30 years' experience 'The Herdsman's Mate or Guide for Herdsmen, Teaching how to cure all Diseases of Bulls, Oxen, Cows and Calves, gathered from sundry good authors and well approved by the author in his 30 years' practice.' (Dublin, 1673.) This work showed Michael Harward was a pioneer in veterinary surgery and cattle practice. He brought surgery of the abdomen into veterinary practice. Cords and hooks were used for Hysterokia. A stumpy blade finger knife was used for embryotomy. In 1667 he produced artificial birth of a calf from a cow with cervical occlusion by dilating the s with his middle finger and carrying forward the blade of a knife between his fingers and by incision of the cervix created enough room for the extraction of the calf which then remained alive with its mother. With Michael Harward, concludes Rieck, there appeared the best cattle practitioner (*Bujatriker*) of modern times and the veterinary surgery of the 17th century reached an astonishingly high level which is also revealed by the instruments used."

JOSEPH DOWNING and EDWARD SKELLETT

Joseph Downing was a country practitioner of Stourbridge who wrote a book entitled "*A Treatise on the Disorders incident to Horned Cattle* . . . and an appendix containing Instructions for the extraction of Horned Calves" in 1797. "The man had a natural aptitude for obstetrics. His instructions are clear, brief, precise; his methods gentle and patient. In 18 pages we have a veritable masterpiece on obstetrics." (Smith's *History*. **2**. 227.)

After practising in the country, Edward Skellett came to London and settled in Marylebone. London in those days had to produce its own milk. In 1807 he published his book "*A Practical Treatise on Parturition in the Cow*, etc., etc.", with further additions in 1811, 1829 and 1833. "This is the most superb work ever published in the English language on parturition in the cow." Then after summarising his work, Smith concludes: "Skellett has broken new ground: a man has appeared who is in search of knowledge and has given precision to some aspects of obstetrical physiology through his own careful and numerous dissections. His work stands by itself. Its clinical side was plundered by Simonds without acknowledgment, but henceforth Skellett's name must live." (*History*. **3**. 119.)

(James Beart Simonds (1810-1904) was appointed to the newly created Chair of Cattle Pathology in May, 1843 (three years after Coleman's death) and to the Principalship on the death of Spooner in 1871, retiring in 1881. The Charter of Incorporation of the London College was obtained during his Principalship in 1875.)

Enough evidence, it is felt, has been given to show that the clinical veterinary knowledge available in the country at the time of the opening of the London Veterinary College in 1791 was by no means negligible. Doubtless in the hands of the common farrier and cow leech the standards of treatment adopted were low and superstitious and the manipulative methods brutal and unnecessary, and the charges of these men, it is said, were correspondingly extortionate. But in some individuals and running in some families for generations there was a serious attempt to do their best and deal honourably with their clients. Indeed, for over half a century after the opening of the schools little that was outstanding in the way of clinical achievement emerged from the actual founding of the schools. Commenting on this state of affairs in his biographical notice on John Barlow (1815-1856) F. Smith says :—

"We are now near the middle of the nineteenth century, and there is no indication that with the advance of time veterinary surgeons were taking any higher position as practitioners of an art, while of science they had little knowledge. There had been a dearth of good men since the days of Blaine, Moorcroft and Bracy Clark, a dearth mainly attributable to the wretched, mentally impoverished material with which Coleman filled our ranks. But for Youatt and W. Percivall, the period would be absolutely barren, for good man as Dick undoubtedly was, he was more practical than scientific, and he seldom wrote for professional journals. . . . Dick, as we have seen, had a keen eye for coming men, and he selected Barlow to teach Anatomy and Physiology at his school, where he remained for the brief period of his life and became a great and enthusiastic teacher."

Commenting further on Barlow himself, Smith's estimate of his possibilities is most apposite to this occasion :—

"It is evident that a new teacher had arisen, an enthusiast, one who sought for truth and was not satisfied with the explanations of his day, who studied symptoms and could not be satisfied until he had got to the root of matters, who was prepared to adopt modern methods of clinical enquiry and modern instruments of research. He could not find the field he needed in Dick's School, but it existed in the medical schools of the university, and there, when his classes were over, he studied. This enabled him, as one of his distinguished pupils said, to bring a wide knowledge of human surgery and medicine to bear on his veterinary teaching. Goodsir, no mean judge, pronounced Barlow's lectures to be in all respects on a level with the corresponding courses in the schools of medicine. What Barlow was striving for was the introduction into veterinary education of up-to-date methods. The microscope played an important part in his teaching and he instituted practical classes in which the microscope was used. He was not only a skilled anatomist, but also a pathologist. For some years he delivered a course of lectures on the diseases of cattle; he employed modern methods of enquiry, auscultation, percussion, and improved methods of treatment. His teaching had the special virtue of training men to reason and to think, for he did not merely describe symptoms, but endeavoured to trace them back to the morbid conditions from which they arose. Professor Gairdner, one of the leading teachers of human pathology of his day, said he often consulted Barlow, and always with advantage."

"The position which he made for himself in scientific circles in Edinburgh was very high. One candid friend in the university expressed his regret that a man so richly endowed intellectually, so accomplished in many sciences, had so unworthy a field for the exercise of his powers!"

An estimate of the career of the sensitive and brilliant clinical teacher, William Williams, who became head of Dick's School in 1867, opening afterwards a new college on his own in Edinburgh in 1873, had best be left to his disciple, Colonel Brittlebank. Space will not allow of some passing remarks on another of Dick's pupils, James McCall, who opened the Glasgow Veterinary College in 1862. On the whole, it cannot be asserted that at Edinburgh, the foundations for clinical enterprise that were so solidly laid by Dick were afterwards splendidly built upon, though this might well have been so but for the tragically early death of John Barlow, while at London, except for a few hard-worked and thoroughly well-meaning people like Morton and Varnell, who honestly did their best, Coleman's demise consigned the direction of the teaching of the Clinical Veterinary Art, until the last decades of the 19th century, to sum up Smith's not unfair estimates, to a rather long succession of what may be not inaptly briefly dismissed as "drones."

(7) *Some Outstanding Figures in the Evolution of the Veterinary Art after the Foundation of the Schools.*—Subsequent speakers doubtless will draw from their recollections upon a large number of veterinarians who in their day have won their respect and admiration. All honour to such men: their name is almost legion. Indeed, the present essayist would dearly like to seize the occasion to pay tribute to two such clinicians, happily still surviving, to whom he owes a debt he can never repay.* It is men such as these, often little known outside their own district, but trusted and respected by a large public within their district, who have brought honour to the veterinary profession. Little adept often with the pen and decently shy of the platform, these men need to be watched during their daily round to appreciate their sterling worth. From time to time, realising the paucity of practical talent at the schools, men of this kind have been drafted to take over clinical teaching and assume charge at the schools. Often this has resulted in tragedy. What is required in a teacher and in a practitioner is, to an extent we need not pause to dwell upon, different. It is almost notorious that an outstanding research worker frequently is an insufferably dull teacher, and, calm and confident though the outstandingly successful practitioner always is in facing his own clients, the ordeal of the lecture room often proves beyond his powers. On an occasion such as this, however, it is a duty that must not be shirked to select as models for the younger generation certain figures whose life-histories are fairly fully documented and accessible. The next speakers will doubtless touch on a number of such men. For the present, I shall confine myself to two only, namely, William Dick and Edmond Nocard. Did space permit, I would have added a third, Friedberger, of Munich. From association with Sir John M'Fadyean, whose advice it was to keep in front of one always a model, I feel I cannot do better than commend the models which he himself held before him. Dick is chosen, because in the real *evolution* of the clinical veterinary art he, above all others in Britain, contrived successfully to pass on what was best of what was already there. Maybe if Barlow had survived, Dick's torch would have been brilliantly passed on. The man who did

* See Smith's *History*. **2**. 79.

* The news has come since the above was printed of the death of one of them (W. S. King), and so it is a consoling thought at this moment that the hearing of the original address at the Central Meeting gave him pleasure—a pleasure, it is trusted, because he surely detected in it spiritual paternity. Elsewhere it is recorded he was almost the last of the great London horse practitioners. Those who knew him best can testify to his deep, even religious, faith in his calling: this gave him heart to rise above all obstacles and win for him what he prized most, the solid confidence of his clients. For he came to count among them the body whose reputation in that respect, it need hardly be said, is almost synonymous in the world with the British good name—Lloyds.

this, better than anyone else in Europe, I believe, was Edmond Nocard. It may be contested that Nocard was an outstanding scientist and not a clinician at all—that he was indeed a forerunner of the fast-multiplying satellites to the professional veterinary surgeon in the shape of the present-day technologists. Nothing could be less true. Like Bang and like Ostertag, too, who were also illustrious, his early apprenticeship was as a clinical teacher, and indeed it was on that foundation that all these men built their later careers. They never lost sight of the need to hold steadfastly before their vision that they were primarily veterinary surgeons and they were never at any pains to conceal from the world that they were of that calling.

(A) William Dick (1793–1866)

A good summary of Dick's career has been given by Smith (*Hist. Vet. Lit.* **4.** 15) but the following passage from Dr. Bradley's monograph* on the Dick College, we believe, cannot be improved upon as a fair estimate of his achievement :—

"There are good reasons why a history of the Edinburgh Veterinary School should be written, and even better why it should be written at the present time. The life of the Founder is inspiring, for the history of his school is very different from that of the majority of institutions devoted to education. No wealthy man endowed it: no public subscription list brought it into being: no appeal was made to or support given by the State: a famous university could not help. A poor man, the son of poor parents, started out on a venture supported by nothing more than a promise of £50. He cut his coat according to his cloth, and continued so to cut it—weaving the cloth himself. And there is something almost romantic in the story of a brother and sister, living in and for the Clyde Street school, tending and watching over it continually, proudly noting its growth, doubtless exulting a little as they saw it go from strength to strength, and dying, making it their sole heir. The picture is enriched by the figure of William Worthington, that loyal and devoted servant who so well deserves more generous treatment than he has received in this history. The desire to do him justice was there, but material facts were wanting."

"His [Dick's] was the task," says Dr. Bradley further in his monograph, "to initiate and foster the evolution of the Scottish veterinary surgeon from the more intelligent working blacksmith: and in little more than forty years he was instrumental—for long single-handed—in producing over eight hundred trained veterinary practitioners."

Not only did his method succeed in producing the type of craftsman which the public needed in Scotland, so that unqualified practice has never been the canker there it has become in England, but also, although he never became attuned himself to an understanding of the "science" of his craft, through his example and precept men were produced who did remarkable pioneer work overseas, such as Duncan McEachran and Andrew Smith in Canada, James Law in America, Hallen in India, and Hutcheon in South Africa, or became heads of other British veterinary colleges, such as William Williams and James McCall.

"The founder of this College," said the distinguished physiologist, Professor McKendrick, in an inaugural address at the Dick College in 1875,† "was a man of great natural ability, energy and perseverance, and I would strongly recommend all students to study his life and character. They will there see what one man can accomplish, who has clear aims, a spirit of self-sacrifice, and the power to go on in the face of what may appear to be overwhelming difficulties. From an early period of his life, William Dick formed the idea of improving the veterinary art in Scotland. His clear intelligence saw how deficient the practitioners of the day were. They were ignorant of the most elementary knowledge of the structure and functions of the domestic animals: while their treatment of disease was often not only of no use, but absolutely injurious. He saw distinctly that some knowledge and training was required, and soon after finishing his own education he determined to establish permanently an institution for the education of veterinary surgeons. This he did gradually, but throughout his long life it was the one leading motive which guided him in all his actions. He had a strong personal love of animals, and an appreciation of the beauty of animal form. The sight of disease and suffering in the domestic animals excited within him feelings of compassion, and a desire to relieve them by any means that science and art could suggest. He was therefore an enthusiast in his profession, and his enthusiasm enabled him to carry through the great work of founding this College. With all this enthusiasm, however, his practical sense appreciated the commercial value of animals, and he saw that improvements in the veterinary art increased the wealth of the community. No one can read his biography without observing the liberal spirit which actuated him. He did not found this College as a commercial speculation, but from the high motive of benefiting the veterinary profession. Money was not to him the great desideratum in this life. He spent it freely, sometimes at a great sacrifice to his own personal comfort, if it secured the object he had in view. But while he scattered he increased. Ability in his profession brought a just reward, and notwithstanding his great efforts to improve the art, even by much direct expenditure, he left behind him not a little to carry onward the work in which the best of his thoughts and energies had been spent during life."

On his own death bed the late Sir Frederick Smith dictated some precious notes‡ relevant to John Gamgee's (1831-1894) failure to establish a veterinary college in Edinburgh, in opposition to Dick's, which we believe summarise the whole of his intense historical researches in so far as they illuminate the problem presented here to-day. The words in the following passage bring into focus the prime essentials of the training required for the career of veterinary surgeon in such a way as, we think, has never been elsewhere so aptly expressed :—

"The twelve months that Gamgee (who was 'gifted beyond measure') worked with Dick gave him a valuable insight into the defects of the Clyde Street education, yet it was those very defects which made the school. Dick did not trouble his head about modern pathology, not even about exactitude in anatomy. All he thought of was the production of a race of practitioners whose knowledge was superior to that of the agriculturist and who would have no difficulty in holding their own against the formidable rivalry of quackery. These men Dick could produce because no matter how wanting he may have been in the science of medicine, his practice was deeply rooted in experience, and this he could impart."

"Gamgee was no source of strength out of the lecture theatre."

The whole core of successful veterinary teaching, we believe, is embedded in that passage. So now we can touch briefly upon the career of an illustrious veterinarian which may serve as a "model" of how the craft of his calling can be adjusted to the needs of his time by grafting on to it what was useful and essential from other rapidly expanding spheres.

(B) Edmond Nocard (1850-1903)

"Father and grandfather were timber merchants in Provins, France, After qualifying at Alfort in 1873, he was appointed surgical and clinical instructor and afterwards, in 1878, to the chair of surgery, obstetrics and shoeing, in which he published several original works besides excelling as a teacher, although his main interest became directed towards scientific research after 1876, when he entered into collaboration with Pasteur and Roux. He became an ardent disciple and colleague of Pasteur and took part in the earliest demonstrations of the efficacy of vaccination against anthrax with Pasteur and his other disciples, and was despatched to Egypt to study cholera with Straus and Thullier (who died there of the disease). For a short time he was director of the Alfort school, but then resigned, in 1890, to devote himself entirely to the chair of contagious diseases. After acquiring skill in bacteriological technique he published work on equine tuberculosis (1885), bovine mastitis, with Mollereau (1887), enzootic mammitis of ewes (1888), tuberculosis, tetanus, glanders, bovine lymphangitis ('farcin du boeuf'), tuberculin testing (with Roux he showed the advantages of incorporating glycerin in the culture medium, 1887), mallein testing, cultivation of the bovine pleuro-pneumonia organism (with Roux, Borrel, Salembeni and Dujardin-Beaumetz, 1898), foot-and-mouth disease (showing the limitations of serum in 1903). (In 1898, he published, in collaboration with Leclainche, his classic work, 'Les maladies microbinennes des animaux.') Died from the after-effects of an attack of diphtheria after a tour in Algeria. For some years he was editor of the *Receuil de médecine vétérinaire*.

Like Pasteur, like Roux, like all the great followers of Pasteur, Nocard would not publish results until they had been repeated to verify their accuracy about ten times by himself and others. He provoked opposition to his views which in turn impelled him to multiply further proofs. He realised that the findings of the laboratory are only of relative value and that before they can be recommended for adoption in practice they must always be rigorously corroborated in every possible foreseen and unseen circumstances."

"The man lives in his work. Nocard's was characterised by simplicity and directness. He put forth facts and nothing but facts. There was no attempt at exhibiting dialectical skill in his writings. To convince his adversaries a free series of experiments seemed preferable to the most rigorous syllogisms. There was never any attempt at producing effect in his utterances, which were always precise and correct, and there was no cleverness in his talk. Nocard shunned that kind of showmanship which, to the unwary reader, invests a commonplace fact with the semblance of an original discovery. He never made a fanciful promise regarding the future: he realised with what deceptions are followed, even in the laboratory, the most legitimate expectations.

"Nocard was a true and great man: he brought honour to his profession and his country, and he has left to posterity a body of work which will never perish."*

Like other great veterinary exponents Nocard realised only too well that the essential craftsmanship of the art cannot well be adjusted by its practitioners to current progress unless they have received sufficient general education. The lack of equipment in this respect among students had been the bane of veterinary education at the Continental schools since their foundation. This is how Nocard's disciple and colleague, Leclainche, relates the way the momentous event of making a sound general education obligatory for entry into the French schools was achieved. As in other respects it was those schools which for long led the way in the world to improvement :—

"In 1886, Chauveau succeeded Bouley, deceased, as inspector-general of the veterinary schools. The decree of 18th February, 1887, for which we are indebted to the Minister of Agriculture, Jules Develle, promulgated at last the necessary measures for redemption. The *bachelier* diploma [equivalent to our present matriculation standard] was thenceforward exacted for admission into the schools. From that day a new era opened for French veterinary medicine, and all the triumphs predicted were accomplished in turn."

"The measures were achieved at the instigation of Nocard, and through the mediation of Dr. du Mesnil, a political friend and intimate adviser of the Minister (adds Leclainche in a footnote). "I was present during the visit which du Mesnil paid to Nocard at his laboratory at Alfort to inform him that the Minister had just signed the draft of the decree, notwithstanding the opposition of his Government. *This is one more claim, which everybody has overlooked, Nocard has upon us to meet our gratitude and our affection*" (our italics).* The importance of the event escaped the notice of contemporary chroniclers.†

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* Preface to "History of the Edinburgh Veterinary College," by O. Charnock Bradley, 1923. (Oliver & Boyd.)

† *Vet. J.* (1875.) **1.** 423.

‡ Smith's *Hist. Vet. Lit.* **4.** 186.

* Leclainche, E. (1925.) *R. gén. méd. vét.*

* Leclainche (1936). *Histoire de la Médecine vétérinaire*, p. 251.

† Parenthetically, it may be added that the British veterinary profession is under a similar debt of gratitude to Nocard's admirer, the late Sir John M'Fadyean for the action which he took in insisting upon a higher standard of general education for entry into the British veterinary colleges. In 1888, a certificate in general education was required before admission to the course. "As a member of the Examination Committee of the Council, R.C.V.S., he was the staunchest advocate for a high standard of general education and, indeed, in 1896, he resigned his membership of the Council and contested an election on the very question of the educational standing to be demanded of intending veterinary students. At the subsequent election he was returned at the head of the poll with the largest number of votes ever recorded . . . ." (*J. comp. Path.*, 1937, **50**, 246.) Sir John M'Fadyean's achievement, magnificent though it was, towards veterinary advancement, however, can hardly be paralleled with that of Nocard. Like Bradley, somewhat later at Edinburgh, also an outstanding figure in his day, his interests had been early in anatomy but he went forward from it to pathology. His mind, to those who knew him, was therefore more engrossed with the dead than with the living. Whereas, therefore, as has been well said by Leclainche and has been most evident to those who have been fortunate enough to work with Nocard's other disciples, such as Vallée, Nocard warmed those who approached him to admiration and affection, men of M'Fadyean's and (to a lesser extent) Bradley's type tended to chill those who dared to come close to them into *admiration and profound respect*. It has therefore been most valuable to have McKendrick's testimony regarding William Dick ("The sight of disease and suffering in the domestic animals excited within him feelings of compassion . . . ."). This quality has been largely overlooked by Bradley and by Smith, as biographers of Dick. It

After thus giving an impression, from the estimates of those who knew best their worth, of the late Sir John M'Fadyean's two "models," I feel it will not be taken as an exhibition of bad taste in terminating this address, seing that what I am about to say is on published record, if I quote his own estimate formed during his long life as veterinary teacher, from 1876 to 1927, of the outstanding men who had passed through his hands. They were not, as might be supposed, men who distinguished themselves afterwards in the laboratory or in the office. The three best assistants he had had, he said, were Frederick Hobday, of Kensington, George P. Male, of Reading, and S. J. Motton, of Penzance. And the curious thing, he added, was that they were the men who did best afterwards in veterinary *practice*. "Nothing tired or daunted them."

To conclude, therefore, a somewhat discursive essay on a great theme with a summing-up of our history, the following lessons, I would venture to say, stand out fairly clearly :—

The Clinical Veterinary Art is a separate sphere, in which progress depends always in the main upon the vitality, enterprise and wisdom of its own practitioners.

It is of great antiquity, with roots buried deep in the stories of great ancient civilisations many of which have failed to progress or have long since collapsed.

While during some periods and within some territories—and in the minds of men of outstanding genius, as rulers, artists, or scientists at nearly all times—the Art has been held in the highest esteem, at other times and places—and in the minds of the least well-enlightened among all classes at nearly all times—it has been scorned as a degraded calling.

On the whole, it has happened that during periods and in places where the human mind has become sharply awakened and bent its energies upon progress, then and there the Art has been accorded high prestige. When and where, as seems to happen cyclically, the human mind becomes somnolent and regresses maybe in the process to primitive ways of thought and behaviour so as to have recourse to superstitious practices, then and there the Art has been debased.

The Art has had to adjust itself in the course of time to changing demands that are sometimes drastic and often arise suddenly.

Expansion of the Art depends largely upon striving to derive for it all that is useful and *really essential* from the current expansion of other spheres of human enterprise, but it is wholly dependent upon none of them. It is certainly not dependent wholly upon that of human medicine, which has likewise benefited from a variety of outside expansions, and usually, but by no means invariably, the contributions made from outside sources to the two spheres have synchronised. The Art is not without experience of retardation in its progress through injudicious association with human medicine. Some individuals with medical, and especially surgical, qualifications have, however, made brilliant contributions to the progress of the Art when they have appreciated its proper and distinctive setting.

The title to individual eminence must therefore rest basically upon the extent to which the individual in his day has contributed to the Art, firstly, by acquiring all that was best from what had been already bequeathed to him from a long and rich heritage ; secondly, by helping most to adjust the Art usefully to meet the changing circumstances of his time ; and, thirdly, by taking the greatest pains to instil into it from other spheres everything essential to promote its useful expansion.

To the extent that these threefold forms of activity in which he has been engaged have been of real service to the public and that he has left nothing undone, through example no less than through precept, to communicate all along the well-proved results of his labours to his own contemporaries as well as to posterity, his title to eminence, it is believed, will be surely established. Certainly nothing else, that may have been performed to secure passing advantage or dictated by self-interest, can win him the lasting regard of posterity.

It is earnestly hoped that the discourse presented as well as the few examples chosen will accomplish a little to inspire members of newer generations of veterinarians to follow in the footsteps of forerunners who have now had to withstand the searching tests of history and bring them, all the more surely, too, due gratification and honour. It will not be vain to hope then that they in their turn will aspire to establish in a stronger place than ever in the public regard the corporation whose centenary we celebrate here to-day—the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

(To be concluded with the addresses delivered by Sir Arthur Olver, the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Brittlebank, and Dr. J. McCunn.)

the quality without which, we believe, no one can be granted great eminence in the Clinical Veterinary Art. It was a quality developed in large degree in the late Sir Frederick Hobday, and gave him, as some erroneously thought, a higher place in the public regard than was merited by his scientific achievement. Without that quality of humanity and humaneness in its head, an institution professing to be devoted to the Clinical Veterinary Art, tends in time, we submit, to become a mere museum and fail ultimately, sooner or later, in its objectives, unless the quality happens by chance to be exuberant in some other members of the staff.

CLINICAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Treatment of Certain Canine Neoplasms by Stilboestrol

R. H. SMYTHE, M.R.C.V.S.,
Nottingham.

The following cases are recorded in the hope that other practitioners may attempt the treatment of certain types of neoplasm, commonly encountered in the dog, by injection of *large* doses of stilboestrol dipropionate, and that they will publish their results.

The cases treated by the writer have occurred in connection with glandular tissues, and are presumed to have been adenomata in simple or mixed form. The most outstanding results, possibly on account of the frequency of their occurrence, have been obtained in connection with anal adenomata. It is noteworthy that out of over 150 cases of this condition dealt with during the last two years, only four cases have occurred in bitches, and it is possible that some of these may actually have been connective tissue tumours with no association with gland tissue other than localisation. It seems probable that anal adenoma in the dog is principally confined to *male* animals. The infrequency of suppuration within the anal glands in bitches may have some bearing on this point.

The following, drawn from the records of many similar cases, may be of interest:—

Case 1. Collie dog, ten years. Operated on twelve months previously for anal adenoma. The growth had recurred and was now very large, occupying the whole of the anal and perineal regions. Granulating masses which bled easily and freely, protruded through the skin and an extension of the neoplasm, hot, painful and undefined, infiltrated the right quarter overlying the hip joint.

Prognosis.—Quite inoperable and probably malignant.

Treatment.—As the owner refused to consider destruction, it was decided to try the effect of injection of large doses of stilboestrol, this treatment having been successful in the writer's experience in the case of smaller growths of similar type. The dose of stilboestrol dipropionate was 15 mgm. (1½ c.c. of the 10 mgm. per c.c. solution) injected subcutaneously twice weekly, augmented by the daily administration per os of 3 mgm. of the same preparation in tablet form.

Results.—At the end of the first week of treatment, the growth was less inflamed and haemorrhage from the granulations had ceased. The portion of the tumour extending over the right quarter was noticeably reduced in size. By the end of the second week this swelling had practically disappeared. The dog, which before the commencement of treatment had been ill, sore and disinclined to move, was now rejuvenated and *galloped* up and down a flight of steps in the garden which previously he had refused to attempt.

At the conclusion of four weeks' treatment the whole of the neoplasm had completely disappeared.

Case 2.—Scottie dog, about six years. Great difficulty in urination and defaecation accompanied by painful and prolonged straining and fits of screaming. These symptoms had been in evidence for several weeks.

Palpation of the abdomen revealed a rounded, solid mass in the pelvic region, the size of a tennis ball. Digital examination per rectum showed that the enlargement was confined to the prostate. There was no evidence of suppuration within the gland.

Treatment.—As in Case 1.

Results.—At the end of one week's treatment, urination and defaecation were accomplished easily, without evidence of pain. After three weeks, the prostate had become practically normal in size, and at the end of five weeks the dog was discharged cured, There has been no recurrence during the last six months.

Case 3.—Fox terrier bitch, 13 years, in poor bodily condition. Each of her mammae contained a suppurating neoplasm ranging from the size of a marble to that of a walnut.

Treatment.—As in Cases 1 and 2, with the addition of sulphanilamide per os. The stilboestrol treatment was carried on for three weeks whilst the sulphanilamide was discontinued after one week.

Results.—At the end of a month, the growths had almost completely disappeared and the glands had ceased to secrete pus. Fifteen months later, the bitch was destroyed on account of general senility. *Post-mortem* examination showed the mammae to be normal to naked-eye examination with the exception of a few hard shot-like masses in the depths of the mammary tissues.

Anthrax in Suckling Pigs*

J. McCONNACHIE INGRAM, M.R.C.V.S.,
Oxted, Surrey.

Subjects.—Wessex saddle back sucklings.

History.—The sow farrowed a litter of seven pigs in the open on some waste land surrounding an air exit of a railway tunnel. There they remained for three weeks along with two in-pig sows, when they were taken indoors and placed in adjoining yards. Apart from the rooting and grazing, each sow was given 4 lb. of national pig meal mixed with a quantity of concentrated swill pudding, from a nearby town.

When brought in to the yard the young piglets started feeding, and were fed separately from the sow, but given some of the same national pig meal without swill being added. Some days later the sow went off her food and was dull and listless, but recovered within a few days. A day or two later the smallest piglet of the litter developed a cough and a slightly swollen throat, was ill for 36 hours and died, and the carcase was buried. A few days later another piglet died and was buried after similar symptoms and course of illness. When the sucklings were five weeks old another of the litter became ill, displaying the same symptoms, and died within 24 hours of being seen affected; this carcase was buried also.

The day after the last carcase was buried professional advice was sought without much history being supplied.

Examination of the sow and remaining four sucklings revealed nothing abnormal, and the other sows which had now farrowed were with their litters quite normal also.

The last piglet to die was exhumed. The carcase was found to be in fair condition, the throat seen to be slightly swollen with some discoloration of the skin in that area. Two ulcer-like sores were observed on the skin between the shoulder and the elbow.

The throat was opened up and the submaxillary and pharyngeal glands found enlarged and haemorrhagic. There was very little serous exudate in the surrounding areas. The pharynx was bluish in colour with distinct raised ulcers on either side in the pocket formed between the epiglottis and the sides of the pharynx. These ulcers were more raised in appearance and with a very pronounced peripheral ring compared to the ulcers sometimes seen in a similar position and associated with swine fever.

Smears from the pharyngeal lymph glands stained with M'Fadyean's methylene blue were examined and found positive. The case was reported and the slides and glands sent to the Ministry where the diagnosis was confirmed.

There were no further deaths, although one more piglet of the litter developed a slight throat affection but recovered in a few days.

The other sows which farrowed in adioining yards were fed throughout on the same food and their litters also, but nothing abnormal occurred.

There can be little doubt that the illness and deaths in the sucklings were due to anthrax, and there is a distinct probability that the sow was similarly affected.

Because there was so little history given with the call, there were not sufficient slides available to take a scraping from the ulcer-like wounds observed on the exhumed pig. As skin lesions are reputedly rare in animals, it would have been interesting to have examined this material. None of the other affected animals was observed to have skin sores.

* Presented to the meeting of the South-Eastern Division, N.V.M.A., held at Tonbridge, November 16th, 1944.

CANADA ACTS TO PREVENT INTRODUCTION OF RABIES

There are no federal restrictions on the importation of dogs from Canada into the United States, but an order of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, recently introduced, reads as follows:—

"All dogs for entry into Canada from the United States shall be accompanied by a certificate signed or endorsed by a veterinary inspector of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry certifying that the dogs have been inspected and found free from any symptoms of contagious disease; that the animals have not been exposed to the infection of rabies, and that no case of rabies has occurred within a radius of 50 miles of the place in which the dogs have been kept for a period of six months immediately prior to date of shipment.

"Performing dogs entered for temporary stay and kept under direct control while in Canada shall be exempt from this order."

* * * * *

Weekly Wisdom

The community's standards constantly outstrip its achievements.
—The Times.

THE VETERINARY RECORD
March 10th, 1945

A WELCOME APPOINTMENT

We feel sure that our readers will have noted with pleasure* that the University of Aberystwyth has appointed Mr. Alastair N. Worden to the important new chair in Animal Health.

Whilst in no way underestimating the advantages that can be obtained if a really adequate veterinary training is given in a university, it is perhaps too readily forgotten, even by some of our own members, that within the field of animal health and disease there is at present no university course which gives such a wide and varied training as that given to satisfy the examinations for the R.C.V.S. diploma. The authorities of Aberystwyth University might have appointed a man deeply versed in one of the scientific disciplines related to animal health and disease but lacking the wider background provided by a veterinary training. It is, therefore, gratifying, particularly at the present time, that they have chosen a man whose graduate and post-graduate training has given him a wide grasp of the varied problems involved in animal health and disease.

Aberystwyth University and Mr. Worden are doubly fortunate in that the new Professor is young and his most productive years should lie before him. The veterinary profession wishes them both every success in their new venture.

* *Vet. Rec.* **57**. 81.

ABSTRACTS

[Bovine Leptospirosis. Jungherr, E. (1944.) *Amer. vet. med. Ass.* **105**. 276.]

Bovine leptospirosis has been described in the U.S.S.R. In this article the author gives the first account of the disease in the U.S.A. Three fatal cases in cows are recorded. In one animal illness developed at the height of lactation; there were anorexia, sub-normal temperature and terminal convulsions on the sixth day of the illness. At *post-mortem* examination the only gross lesion was "nutmeg" liver. Microscopically there was sinusoidal congestion and haemorrhage with foci of necrobiosis. The spleen showed extensive haemosiderosis. Sections stained by Levaditi's method revealed numerous leptospira-like bodies in the liver and a few in the kidneys. In the other two cows which died on another farm there was a mild preparturient fever with anorexia and bloody milk. The gross pathology comprised oedema and haemorrhage in the udder, numerous petechiae in the sub-cutis and serosa. There were abnormal striations on the cut surface of the kidneys. Microscopically, in the kidneys of one cow there were large foci of tubular karyolytic necrosis with nests of leptospira. In the other animal there were foci of tubular hypertrophy in the kidneys and agglomerations of leptospira in an adjacent mesenteric lymph gland. Attempts to isolate leptospira were inconclusive. **D. L. H.**

* * * * *

[The Adjuvant Effect of Aerosol upon the Germicidal Action of Cadmium Chloride. Coca, A. F. (1944.) *J. lab. clin. Med.* **29**. 7.]

Fungicidal agents for use in the local treatment of ringworm infections must be non-toxic and non-irritant, and should be freely diffusible. An alcoholic solution of cadmium chloride is known to be an effective non-toxic and non-irritant fungicide, but its properties are markedly enhanced by the addition of a wetting agent, which favours its diffusion through the tissues and possibly through the micro-organisms. Sodium dioctyl sulpho-succinate or Aerosol was found to possess this adjuvant action, and when added to 1 per cent. cadmium chloride in 30 per cent. alcohol in a concentration of 1 per cent., the mixture proved to be effective against a scaly eczema of the scalp which failed to respond to alcoholic cadmium chloride solution alone. Similarly it proved effective in the treatment of ringworm of the forearms and feet.

In vitro experiments confirmed the highly lethal effect on *Monilia albicans* culture of a mixture of the two substances in 20 per cent. ethyl alcohol. **I. W. B.**

Questions and Answers

"Questions and Answers" will be published on alternate weeks.
The submission of questions for inclusion in this column will be welcomed. They can relate to any aspect of veterinary work and where publication of the name of the enquirer is not desired, a pseudonym should be supplied, the name and address also being given.
Answers to readers' queries represent exclusively the personal opinions of the writers, and criticism of the replies will be appreciated.
All communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Blood Transfusion

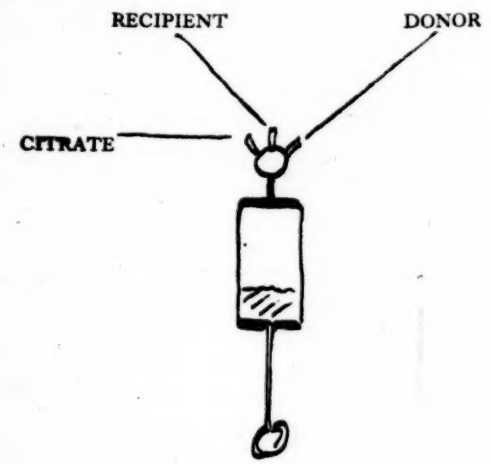
Q.—*I should like to obtain further data on* :—
(1) *A practical technique for performing blood transfusion from bovine to bovine direct* ;
(2) *What consequent dangers might be expected due to blood types, volume of blood transfused and disease transmission* ?—"*Mac.*"

A.—(1) Blood transfusions in animals have not yet been adopted on any scale in this country for clinical purposes, so that there is no standard technique. On the other hand, in America they are used frequently by some practitioners.

The writer has had no experience with bovines, but has used it on horses and has seen it used on goats and dogs experimentally.

Direct transfusions are not of any special value in animals. The indirect method employing citrate is better. The accompanying sketch, employing a special three-way syringe, illustrates one method, but has the disadvantage that the syringe is small compared with the dose for bovines.

Draw up one part of the citrate solution (3 per cent.), then suck off five parts of blood and finally inject the whole into the patient's jugular vein.



A better method is to draw off the blood by suction (employing a reverse Higginson's enema syringe, or an evacuated bottle) into the citrate solution. Re-inject the mixture as early as possible by pressure or gravity into the recipient.

(2) The dangers associated with the use of incompatible blood vary from species to species, but are mainly in the form of an anaphylactic syndrome. This may prove fatal, especially when using dried, reconstituted serum or plasma. When working with "untyped" blood try out the injection of 100 c.c. first, and if this does not produce any untoward reaction within two hours, then inject the full dose, *e.g.*, 4 to 8 pints for adult bovines.

The danger of the transmission of disease from bovine to bovine by means of blood transfusions is not great in this country, provided the donor is in normal health at the time, and the technique sterile.

Occupational Dermatitis

Q.—*For the past three years I have suffered from occupational dematitis. Following vaginal and rectal examinations, etc., my arms become red and itching. I have tried all manner of dressings and desensitisation with peptone injections. What is the best treatment, preventive and curative, for this condition?*—*J. N.*

A.—In cases of this occupational condition the essential thing is to search for the exciting cause and when found—this not always easy—to avoid it or take steps to protect against it.

In the case of veterinary surgeons there are generally two factors: (1) Irritant; (2) Allergic.

Irritants are usually disinfectants, generally those of cresol or coal tar origin. Iodoform is also a common cause. Veterinary surgeons use these things in considerable strength and they also scrape away the protective superficial epidermis with harsh nail brushes. Neither is really necessary. One should experiment with the various disinfectants; often it is only one type which causes the trouble. Dettol or hypochlorite seems to be less harmful than others in most cases. In the case of irritants and also in "allergy," considerable benefit can be gained by applying a protective dressing before coming in contact with any exciting cause. There is a product on the market called "Rosalex" which is a non-greasy preparation and when smeared on the hands and arms will protect against even formalin. It has this benefit also, that when the hands, etc., are washed any offensive odours also vanish.

Rubber gloves protect but at the present time they are difficult to acquire and poor in quality. They need great care in cleaning, etc., and on the whole lead to a sense of false security and so to breakdowns.

Sensitisation of an allergic character, probably of bacterial origin, also occurs. A common exciting cause is *Br. abortus*. Several references to skin eruptions of this nature have been recorded. H. Begg (*Vet. Rec.* (1933.) **41**. 1033) has stated "that he knew of veterinary surgeons who suffered over and over again a serious rash on the skin of their arms after removing the foetal membranes from aborting cows."

The measures mentioned above might help to obviate this type of dermatitis.

Cloacal Prolapse

Q.—*Are there any known causes of cloacal prolapse (fowl) besides the production of extra large eggs? May it be due to general lack of tone as in some cases of "crop-bound" and, if so, how does this arise in a well managed flock? I have had only three cases, but they were all members of the one flock.*—"*Brown Leghorn.*"

A.—In fowls, prolapse of the cloaca invariably accompanies eversion of the oviduct. The condition is generally the direct result of straining on the part of the bird to lay an unusually large egg, but it may also follow prolonged irritation of the oviduct from other causes such as concretions of egg yolk, or malformed egg material obstructing that organ. Stafseth, Thompson and Grey (1932)[1] made extensive observations of the occurrence of the conditions in Michigan flocks. No specific cause was found, and the authors were of the opinion that "Prolapse is a symptom of certain diseased conditions in the intestine and oviduct. Hens in the first year of production, and especially white leghorns, are the chief sufferers." Eversion of the oviduct seems peculiar to some flocks, and may be an inherent weakness. The condition is also occasionally seen following straining caused by cloacitis (vent gleet).

Unless the affected bird is promptly removed, other birds usually eviscerate it, and an outbreak of cannibalism may result.

(1) Stafseth, H. J., Thompson, W. W., and Grey, C. G. (1932.) *J. Amer. vet. med. Ass.* **80**. 80-86.

Stilboestrol in Mésalliance

Q.—*Is stilboestrol of value as an agent for recommencing oestrus in a bitch which mated with a dog of the wrong breed 17 days after the appearance of heat (bleeding)? If so, what would be the requisite dose for a greyhound of three years of age?*—*Pedigree.*

A.—Stilboestrol is indicated in cases of mésalliance in bitches up to four days after the date of service. The period of tubal travel of the fertilised ovum in the bitch is, according to Amoroso, eight to ten days, and stilboestrol will bring the endometrium into a condition of oestrus some two to five days after its administration, thus rendering that tissue unsuitable for the insertion of the fertilised ova. In this way pregnancy is prevented. After four to seven days the fertilised ova may already be implanted, and early abortions will seldom be caused. Pregnancy may be maintained in spite of a prolonged oestral period.

The oestral period induced by the stilboestrol may be prolonged, occasionally up to six weeks, thus the owner must be warned to keep the bitch secluded for as long as necessary.

Dosage is high, being calculated on the basis 1 mgm. stilboestrol per 1 lb. body weight, thus the dose for a greyhound would be from 45 to 60 mgm. according to her weight.

Correspondence

Closed Plaster Treatment of Wounds

Sir,—In your issue dated January 27th a question was asked concerning the closed plaster technique in treatment of compound fractures. The answer gives a very inaccurate picture regarding the origin of the method and gives the enquirer no idea of the actual technique to be used.

The treatment is based on scientific observation and reasoning and is not merely the outcome of slipshod work engendered by the rushed conditions of war. Although Trueta has done much to stimulate interest in the method he is not the originator as your answer suggests. Winnett Orr, the American surgeon, demonstrated the technique to the Association of Surgeons as early as 1926 and had previously written various papers on the subject. Years later civil war in Spain presented Trueta with a grim opportunity to try the method on a large scale. The claims made by Winnett Orr were found to be well justified.

The actual technique consists of cleansing the injured limb; shaving and disinfecting the parts around the injury but using no antiseptics on the actual wound. Excise the skin edges around the wound and remove all (even only slightly) damaged tissue and foreign matter. Open up the intermuscular spaces and divide where necessary the aponeuroses to provide adequate drainage. Reduce the fracture. Pack with sterile gauze and immobilise in plaster, leaving no window over the wound. Although the smell becomes severe, change of plaster is rarely necessary in small animal injuries. Temperature will rise during the first few days when sulphonamides may be given with advantage.

The method is of great value in treatment of road accidents in small animals and the writer had one very successful result in the case of a yearling heifer involved in a collision with a train. In this case the metacarpus was fractured in its upper third. The cast was formed of Cellona bandages reinforced with six rods of ¾ in. mild steel.

Yours faithfully,

Woodchurch, Wirral. A. Noel Ormrod.
February 23rd, 1945.

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Concerning Demodex Folliculorum•

Sir,—In a letter published in *The Veterinary Record* of September 16th, 1944, Dr. Leslie Sheather questions the reply to the above query. The reply to the question states that " dead parasites . . . in any event would disintegrate within a short time of death."

Within the last year or so I have had opportunity of examining prepared hides many of which show lesions due to *Demodex folliculorum*. After cutting across one of these lesions the parasites can be removed by means of the point of a knife and microscopic examination reveals the Demodex morphology in every detail without any evidence of disintegration.

These hides are at least five years old, so I suggest that this evidence supports Dr. Sheather's opinion that *Demodex folliculorum* is able to maintain its morphological appearance for a number of years.

Yours faithfully,

Veterinary Research Laboratory, F. R. Bell.
P.O. Box 24, Entebbe, Uganda.
January 31st, 1945.

• *Vet. Rec.*, August 26th, 1944.

FOOD INSPECTION IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

In the early 1890s, the federal government established a classical system of meat inspection of nation-wide jurisdiction to be manned by diplomates of the accredited veterinary colleges capable of passing stated civil service examinations. It was natural, therefore, when a Veterinary Corps was organised by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army during the last war, that inspecting food of animal origin would fall to the officers of that corps. Food inspection is a branch of veterinary medicine. To carry out the project in the Army, schools of food inspection were established at important medical centres, where scientific and practical instructions were given in the intricate task of removing substandard and unwholesome food from the Army rations. Since the hurried preparation for the last war, the science and art of food inspection in the Army and the regulations formulated were improved and expanded through special courses given at Army medical centres. Thus, the inspection of soldiers' food, wholly or partly of animal origin, was added to the duties of the veterinary corps. The service includes the sanitary inspection of food-processing plants, abattoirs and farms beyond the reach of the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry or equivalent State agencies operating under approved regulations, plus the improvement of palatability, nutritive values and aesthetic standards. Food not relished by soldiers is rejected by them and, therefore, wasted. Adequate inspection of food from the point of origin through various steps to its final destination throws a vast and important responsibility on the veterinary branch of the Medical Department since, at the present time, the service operates under strange and unusual conditions in many parts of the world.—*Vet. Med.*

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

Research Bodies (Reports)

Mr. Salt asked the Lord President of the Council, in view of the fact that no reports have been issued by the Medical or Agricultural Research Councils or Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for the past five years, what steps it is intended to take to issue reports as soon as possible dealing with such of their activities during the war as can be published without security objection; when it is anticipated that such reports will be available; and whether they will be provided at a price which will ensure for them a wide sale.

The Lord President of the Council (Mr. Attlee): I assume that the hon. Member's Question refers to the annual reports of these bodies. Although it has been necessary, owing to war conditions, to suspend publication of reports not of direct importance to the war effort, including these annual reports, the hon. member will be aware that a large number of very notable reports have been issued by these bodies during the war. Other reports will be published as soon as security and other considerations permit, and the form in which such publication can best be made is now being reviewed. I am glad to assure the hon. Member that I see no reason why such reports should not be published after the war as they were before at very reasonable prices which put them within the reach of anyone likely to be interested.

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Pit Ponies

Mr. Foster asked the Minister of Fuel and Power if he will give the total number of horses or ponies being used in British coal mines for haulage purposes and the number for each district separately.

Major Lloyd George: The total number is 24,530. Following are the district figures:—

Number of Horses Employed Below Ground at Mines under the Coal Mines Act at June 30th, 1944, in the Various Colliery Districts.

	Colliery districts.	*Number.*
	England and Wales	
1.	Northumberland	2,875
2.	Durham	8,402
3.	Cumberland and Westmorland	62
4.	Lancashire and Cheshire	43
5.	Yorkshire, South	1,330
6.	Yorkshire, West	2,090
7.	Nottinghamshire	984
8.	Derbyshire, North	825
9.	Derbyshire, South	21
10.	Staffordshire, North	21
11.	Cannock Chase	704
12.	South Staffordshire and Worcester	384
13.	Leicestershire	274
14.	Warwickshire	132
15.	Shropshire	64
16.	Forest of Dean	158
17.	Somerset	33
18.	Bristol	30
19.	Kent	Nil
20.	South Wales and Monmouth	5,465
21.	North Wales	106
	Scotland	
22.	Fife and Clackmannan	Nil
23.	Lothians (Mid. and East)	19
24.	Lanarkshire, etc.	389
25.	Ayrshire, etc.	19
	Great Britain	24,530

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India: Agricultural Research

Sir John Graham Kerr asked the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the strain upon the resources of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in the West Indies, he will afford special encouragement to the development of one or more such centres of post-graduate teaching and research in India.

The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Amery): There are in India a number of institutions concerned with agricultural post-graduate teaching and research. The Government of India have under active consideration plans for the extension after the war of the facilities available.

TREATMENT OF CANCER WITH SYNTHETIC OESTROGENS

The Royal Society of Medicine has now set up a scientific committee, under the chairmanship of Professor E. C. Dodds, to investigate the use of synthetic glandular substance on forms of cancer additional to that affecting the prostate, its remarkable effect on the latter being held to warrant such a course. It is planned to limit the trial to certain forms of cancer, to keep to certain prescribed doses of the synthetic oestrogen chosen, and to have all records kept in a standard fashion on special forms.

NOTES AND NEWS

The Editor will be glad to receive items of professional interest for inclusion in these columns.

Diary of Events

Mar. 13th.—Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Counties Division, N.V.M.A., at Norwich (Royal Hotel), 2 p.m.
Mar. 14th.—Annual General Meeting of the Western Counties Division, N.V.M.A., at Exeter (Guildhall), 2 p.m.
Mar. 14th.—Meeting of the West of Scotland Division, N.V.M.A., at Glasgow (North British Station Hotel), 2.30 p.m.
Mar. 14th.—Meeting of the Editorial Committee, N.V.M.A., 36, Gordon Square, W.C.1, 2.30 p.m.
Mar. 17th.—Meeting of the Society of Women Veterinary Surgeons, 69, Great Peter Street, Westminster, S.W.1, 2.15 p.m.
Mar. 23rd.—Meeting of the North Wales Division N.V.M.A., at Llangollen (Royal Hotel), 2.30 p.m.
April 1st.—R.C.V.S. Annual Fees due.
April 11th.—R.C.V.S. Committee Meetings.
April 12th.—R.C.V.S. Committee and Council Meetings.
May 8th.—R.C.V.S. Council Elections—last day for nominations.
May 22nd.—R.C.V.S. Council Election—Voting Papers issued.
May 29th.—R.C.V.S. Council Election—Voting Papers to be returned.
June 5th.—R.C.V.S. Annual General Meeting.
June 6th.—R.C.V.S. Committee and Council Meetings.

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R.C.V.S. Council Election, June, 1945

The following is the complete list to date of the candidates nominated for election to the Council of the College. Further nominations may be received up to May 8th.

Voting papers were issued early in February to members overseas, and these contained the names of all candidates nominated at that date as required by the by-laws. The names included were T. Dalling, H. W. Dawes, R. E. Glover, W. R. McKinna, S. J. Motton, J. D. Peele. But overseas members are at liberty to vote for any of the undermentioned candidates, by inserting the names in writing on the voting paper.

List of Nominations

	Proposers
Frederick Beckett (Blandford)	J. Fox, J. McCunn.
Esmond Brown (Bath)	P. J. Simpson, J. O. Powley.
Harold Burrow (Streatley)	J. Holroyd, G. H. Locke.
*Thomas Dalling (Weybridge)	T. M. Mitchell, H. W. Dawes.
*Howard W. Dawes (West Bromwich)	T. M. Mitchell, G. P. Male.
John Jackson Dunlop (Northampton)	J. McCunn, S. Jennings.
Beatrice L. Everett (Farnham)	T. Hare, J. T. Edwards.
*Ronald E. Glover (Mill Hill)	T. J. Bosworth, F. Blakemore.
William Smith Gordon (Compton)	T. Dalling, W. Nairn.
Reginald C. G. Hancock (Beaconsfield)	G. H. Wooldridge, G. N. Gould.
Thomas Hicks (Sleaford)	J. McCunn, C. Weighton.
J. Campbell Hill (Llanelly)	D. J. Anthony, T. R. Thomas.
*William R. McKinna (Huddersfield)	J. W. Procter, J. F. D. Tutt.
William M. Mitchell (Edinburgh)	J. W. McIntosh, A. B. Kerr.
Robert F. Montgomerie (Beckenham)	L. P. Pugh, G. N. Gould.
*Samuel John Motton (Penzance)	W. Nairn, G. H. Wooldridge.
John Dickinson Peele (Durham)	T. M. Mitchell, H. W. Dawes.
Arthur W. Stableforth (Weybridge)	T. Dalling, G. N. Gould.

* Retiring Members of Council, for re-election.

Roll of Honour

Lieut. Frank B. Brocklehurst, R.A.V.C.

Our readers will learn with deep regret of the death of Lieutenant Frank B. Brocklehurst, R.A.V.C., who was killed on active service in Burma on February 19th, 1945. Profound sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Brocklehurst, of the Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Liverpool, formerly Miss I. W. Burton, M.R.C.V.S., whose marriage to the gallant officer whose loss is now mourned took place on March 1st last year.

R.C.V.S. Obituary

Brocklehurst, Frank Baker, Lieut. R.A.V.C., of Whitefield House, Tarbock, nr. Prescot, Lancs. Graduated Liverpool, December 10th, 1943. Killed on active service, February 19th, 1945.

Robarts, Douglas Leslie, B.Sc. (Edin.), Research Officer, Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Laboratory, New Haw, Weybridge, Surrey. Graduated Edinburgh, July 13th, 1940. Died March 2nd, 1945; aged 27 years.

The sudden death of Mr. D. L. Robarts so early in a research career of great promise is a tragedy deeply felt by his colleagues, who esteemed him highly: a tribute will appear in an early issue. His home was at Wilton House Farm, Shenley, Hertfordshire, and our deepest sympathy is extended to the parents and other members of his family thus bereaved.

Stewart, William Hamilton, 29, Ascott Gardens, Belfast. Graduated Edinburgh, July 13th, 1935. Died February 22nd; aged 34 years.

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The Late Mr. William Samuel King, M.B.E., M.R.C.V.S.

An Appreciation

William Samuel King was born in County Tipperary in 1880 and died suddenly on the morning of February 26th, 1945.

No man of quality and character can go through life without making friends and enemies. As the late W. S. King, "Billy" to his intimates, had both attributes so he had both concomitants. The friends were, and are, in the majority, and the fewness of the minority is probably due to the general appreciation of his stout honesty of purpose. Where his professional judgment was involved he would bow to no man, and on those occasions when his judgment erred the eventual acknowledgment was always made in a generous spirit.

Billy King was probably one of the few independent practitioners in the last 30 years who sought his own line of research at his own expense in the interests of the horse, the animal first in his heart. Horses were his chief love, and for them he laid out all his skill and capacity. For them in his early years he made practical sacrifices in pursuit of the knowledge that would avail them.

He qualified in Edinburgh in July, 1900, and came to London to practise, where he was assistant to Mr. Kendall, of Limehouse, whose practice he took over in later life. As his scope grew he acquired, in their declension, a number of those great horse practices which were once a feature of veterinary life in the metropolis.

He served as a member of the Council of the Royal College from 1921 to 1930 and was one of the most loyal members of the Central Veterinary Society, to which body, as to the Council of the National Horse Association, his great knowledge of Shire horses proved of inestimable value. Proof of his uncanny judgment of the heavy weight horse is furnished by the fact that he was responsible for the winning of many Championship events in the Shire Horse Show in London, and of a large number of Championship awards of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Naturally he was much to the fore in the Regent's Park Parade, an annual event of which Sir Walter Gilbey has been so renowned a sponsor.

W. S. King received the M.B.E. for his work as a civil veterinary surgeon in London during the last war, and in this war his outstanding skill and devotion were shown in high degree during the severe blitzes on the City of London. The East End, where much of his practice lay, was, as is well known, under severe and heavy bombardment, and during the whole period Billy King was always to the fore, and the animal A.R.P. organisation in London would probably vouch for his organising ability and the great assistance he was always ready to give.

Although, as has been said, horses were his main interest, W. S. King was no mean judge of a greyhound and owned two outstanding animals in Lights o' London and Palatinus. His interest in greyhound racing was somewhat superficial, however, as his firm conviction was that the true merits of a greyhound could only be shown in coursing events. Druid's Lodge and Altcar were more in focus with him probably than Harringay and the White City.

To his widow and family sympathy and condolence in their grief will go out from a host of friends.

We mourn the loss of a great veterinarian and a generous friend.

J. L. O'C.

PERSONAL

Marriage.—Meikle—Goudie.—At Glasgow University Memorial Chapel, on February 27th, 1945, by the Rev. C. Keith McWilliam, M.C., M.A., Herbert A. G. Meikle, M.R.C.V.S., only son of Mr. Peter Meikle, M.R.C.V.S., and Mrs. Meikle, Avonholme, Strathaven, to Anne B. Goudie, M.A., younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. B. Goudie, Ewanrigg, Burnbank, Hamilton.

Medical Research Institute.—The Medical Research Council has appointed Professor A. A. Miles, F.R.C.P., of the Chair of Bacteriology at University College Hospital Medical School, to its staff at the National Institute for Medical Research from October 1st next, with a view to his becoming director of the Department of Biological Standards on the retirement of Sir Percival Hartley, F.R.S., next year.

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ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

At the annual meeting of the Court of Governors of the Royal Veterinary College and Hospital (a report of which will appear in an early issue), the Chairman, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Merrik Burrell, said it was hoped the college premises at Camden Town would be released from requisition in time for the second and first year courses to be re-established there at the beginning of the next session.

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ADDRESSES OF DISEASE-INFECTED PREMISES

Swine Fever: "Dawn," Lake Avenue, Rainham, Essex; Winton House, Winton Square, Basingstoke, Hants. (Feb. 27th); "Bungalow," Hilcote Street, South Normanton, Derby; East Church Gardens, off High Street, Bentley, Doncaster, Yorks. (Feb. 28th); Queen's Head Inn, Brandeston, Woodbridge, Suffolk; Little Dengie Farm, Witham, Essex; Mountjoy Farm, Biddeston, Chippenham, Wilts.; Hopshill Mountain Farm, Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire; Gwilymllwyd Farm, Glyn, Brecon (Mar. 1st); No. 14, I.C.I. Allotments, Haverton Hill, Billingham, Co. Durham; 11, Leicester Road, Narborough, Leicester; Market Place, Kenninghall, Norwich; Lodge Farm, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants.; Piggeries, Sprotborough Road, Sprotborough, Doncaster, Yorks. (Mar. 2nd); Milford Street, Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire; South Holme, Cairn Ryan, Stranraer, Wigtownshire; Holly House, Main Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire; Hendrawna Farm, Perranporth, Cornwall; The Firs, Bedford Road, Hitchin, Herts.; Ministers Brae Poultry Farm, Rothesay, Buteshire; Bower Don, School Lane, Chalfont St. Peter, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire; Pottery, Millbrook, Cornwall (Mar. 3rd); No. 13 Holding, Windmill Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife (Mar. 5th).

Sheep Scab: Banhadla, Llangedwyn, Oswestry, Denbighshire; Llwyn Onn Farm, Llangynog, Oswestry (Feb. 26th); Nant Farm, Llangynog, Oswestry; Glanhafon Isa Farm, Penybont Fawr, Oswestry; Tynant, Capel Celyn, Bala, Merioneth (Feb. 27th); Gwerndelwau, Capel Celyn, Bala Merioneth (Mar. 1st); Penrallt Farm, Trefriw, Caernarvonshire (Mar. 3rd).

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor will be glad to receive items of professional interest for inclusion in these columns.

The views expressed in letters addressed to the Editor represent the personal views of the writer only and must not be taken as expressing the opinion or having received the approval of the N.V.M.A.

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AN UNDIAGNOSED CASE

Sir,—I would like to hear members' views on the following case.

The subject was a five-year-old red Shorthorn cow, and when I was called, one evening, to see this animal, the owner told me that she had been perfectly normal until two days previously when she had refused her food. On the day in question she had suddenly become much worse.

When I arrived the cow was down and in very great distress; in fact she was obviously *in extremis*. Breathing was very rapid and accompanied by much moaning; there was profuse sweating and the temperature was "off the thermometer," *i.e.*, 108°+, while the pulse was imperceptible. I stayed for about half an hour helping the owner to put the cow in a comfortable position. But while doing this the cow died.

While preparing to take a blood sample I noticed that *rigor mortis* had already set in—a matter of minutes after death. As the blood smear was negative for anthrax I proceeded next day to carry out a *post-mortem* examination. The lungs were black and very intensely congested. The trachea was much inflamed for most of its length and filled with a frothy exudate. There was intense inflammation of the abomasum, and petechiae in the heart and kidneys were numerous.

Suspecting haemorrhagic septicaemia, I took home a piece of the lung and examined it for bi-polar organisms, but was unable to find any.

I am quite unable to account for the death of this animal and would appreciate observations by your readers.

Yours faithfully,

Bishop Auckland. M. E. I. Searle.

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ANIMAL HEALTH FILMS

Sir,—In August last, after I had had an opportunity of viewing three of the films referred to in your note in *The Veterinary Record* of February 24th, I was bold enough to send you a letter criticising these films. This letter the Editorial Committee in its wisdom declined to publish on the grounds that "the I.C.I. films are not yet publicly released, and therefore they do not feel justified in publishing any comment in *The Veterinary Record* at this stage." I do not propose to resubmit the letter, because some of the criticisms contained therein have now been mentioned in your comment, whilst others, I believe, have been met by cuts in the film.

There is, however, in your note a sentence to which grave exception must be taken—"There are certain errors of veterinary technique in all three films, but it must be borne in mind that these films are intended for stock-owners and not for veterinary surgeons." Surely this is all the more reason why especial care should have been exercised in their production. Errors of procedure or of detail which may be condoned in the rush of busy veterinary practice become magnified and inexcusable in a film for the education of the farmer.

Bearing in mind the excellence of some of the Bayer pre-war films, I cannot unreservedly share your congratulations or agree with the contentions contained in the first paragraph of your note. I have, however, no fault to find with your opinion that "The producers must have learnt a great deal by their experience with these films and if greater care is taken to overcome any apparent incompatibility between the veterinary and motion picture techniques, we shall look forward with pleasure to the remainder of the series." In the meantime, I can only express that, with so much at stake, it is a pity the present films were ever released; it would be better had they been used—in the same way as the old Board of Agriculture handbook on cowshed construction (now happily out of print)—as an example of how things should not be done!

Yours faithfully,

28, Lichfield Street, Tamworth, Staffs. H. W. Steele-Bodger.

February 26th, 1945.

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NON-INFECTED SOURCES OF IMPORTED MEAT

Sir,—During the recent discussion in the House of Commons on foot-and-mouth disease, it was stated by Mr. Tom Williams, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, that "The Minister of Food stated recently that, if he were to adopt the policy suggested by the Hon. Member for Thirsk and Malton (Mr. Turton), it would reduce our meat reation from what it was down to somewhere about 9d. per person per week." The policy referred to was the prohibition of imports of South American meat. Mr. Tom Williams also stated "That that (the suggested policy) was almost out of the question."

Both these statements are only correct if there are no non-infected sources of imported meat available to us.

I, however, contend that there are, within the British Empire, countries free from endemic foot-and-mouth disease and capable of meeting our requirements. I also contend that we continue to import infected meat from the apparently pro-Axis Argentine for one reason only—which reason is not unconnected with British investments there.

I maintain that the grave threat from foot-and-mouth disease can only be removed by first seeking these alternative non-infected sources of imported meat and then prohibiting Argentine imports.

Yours faithfully,

50, Victoria Road, Tamworth. R. F. Armour.

February 6th, 1945.

Advertiser's Announcement

Phenothiazine 'B. W. & Co.'

The following reduced prices are announced by Burroughs Wellcome & Co., London, W.C.1:—

'Wellcome' brand Phenothiazine Compound Dispersible
container of 1 lb., 8s. 9d.
,, ,, 7 lb., 54s.

'Tabloid' brand Phenothiazine, 5 grammes
box of 50, 6s. 6d.
,, ,, 250, 29s.

These reduced prices will apply to all purchasers from March 1st, 1945.